

[illegible]

- Sal. B.*

9. The method of Claim 1 in which an oxidizing agent is added in step (b) (ii).

11. The method of Claim 1 in which the solids concentration of >10% is obtained using a screw press, belt press or a centrifuge.

13. The method of Claim 1 in which the pH of the sludge is adjusted to at least 12 for 2h and then to at least 11.5 for 22 h.

15. The method of Claim 1 in which the pH is increased using a mono or divalent hydroxide.

17. The method of Claim 1 in which some or all of the shearing of step (d) is effected by the action of pumps.

18. The method of Claim 1 in which at least one of the treatments occurs

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25. The apparatus of Claim 24 in which the device of (a) is a screw press or belt press.

26. The apparatus of Claim 24 in which the device of (a) is a centrifuge or filtration unit.
27. The apparatus of Claim 24 in which the device of (c) comprises a rotating toothed disc or impeller.
28. The apparatus of Claim 24 in which the rotating toothed disc or impeller has a tip speed of 1000-10 000 feet/minute.

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